



STRATEGIC WORKFORCE INITIATIVES COMMITTEE

11:00 – 12:00 PM
Thursday, January 30, 2020
GoToMeeting®
Helena, MT

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Miller (Chair), Rebecca Morgan, Asta So, Ken Fichtler, Becky Bey, Jennifer Kobza, and Paul Hopfauf

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Grover Wallace

STAFF: Shannon Lewis

GUESTS: Caitlin Jensen

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Chair Baumgart called the meeting to order at 11:00.

ROLL CALL: Shannon Lewis conducted roll call and established a quorum.

AGENDA: Chair Baumgart asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Mr. Hopfauf moved, and Ms. Kobza seconded a motion to approve the agenda.

The motion carried.

AUGUST 5, 2019 MEETING MINUTES: Chair Baumgart asked for a motion to approve the August 5, 2019 meeting minutes.

Ms. So moved, and Mr. Hopfauf seconded a motion to approve the August 5, 2019 meeting minutes.

The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

FUTURE READY INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED CREDENTIAL PROJECT:

Ms. Lewis updated the committee on the Future Ready Credential Attainment project. The US Census began asking questions about credential attainment approximately one year ago. The Montana Department of Labor economists were able to look at survey results and other data to reveal that Montanans who attested to having a credential were faring better in the labor market. Largely, they had higher wages, and were in more secure occupations than those without a credential or degree. Currently, the Montana

University System coordinates and reports all its degree and credential attainment to the federal government and economists are able to track credentials earned through that system; however, private companies or trainers are not required to report credential attainment to any state or federal entity unless the program participant used state or federal training funds to complete the credential. Because there is no reporting mechanism, it is currently not possible to track all credentials earned by Montanans. Economists will continue tracking the self-reported credential attainment gathered by the US Census Bureau's community survey and the state will continue tracking best practices coming from other states on the tracking of credential attainment.

WIOA STATE PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:

Ms. Lewis gave an update on the WIOA state plan, which is due in March. Largely the coordination across required partners, including Adult Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, and all the WIOA Title I programs has been seamless and the draft plan is in its final review before submittal. The overall strategy reflected in the state plan is to build on current relationships and continue coordinating across partners to deliver services to all Montanans. In addition, the state plan includes additional coordination between the workforce training programs and education systems, including secondary and post-secondary systems.

CHILDCARE UPDATE AND PRESENTATION:

Ms. Caitlin Jensen with Family Forward presented on the Zero to Five initiative, which is working to find innovative community-based solutions to meet Montana's childcare needs. She presented information on the coordinated work happening in both urban and rural areas across the state and the childcare disparities and deserts across Montana. Family Forward would like to be a one-stop solutions-based clearinghouse for community partners, parents, and agencies to share and contribute to resources in support of broader childcare options to meet family and community needs.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Miller adjourned the meeting at 12:00.